GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:78
ANSWERED ON:17.10.2008
MONITORING OF NREGS
Jindal Shri Naveen

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of districts covered by National Level Monitors (NLMs) under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) so far, State-wise;

(b) the important findings brought out in the monitoring reports; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to further streamline the performance of the scheme in the light of the monitoring reports?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT(SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU)

(a): Details are at Annexure-I.

(b): As per the reports submitted by the NLMs, awareness amongst the rural masses about NREGA was reasonably good. NLM reports have observed that in 80% villages, Job Cards were issued within the stipulated period of 15 days from the date of registration; in 88.34% of villages, employment was provided within 15 days to all the applicants and in 85% of the villages, wages were paid within 15 days. Grievance Redressal Mechanism has been set up in 81% blocks visited by NLMs. Areas which need to be strengthened relate to dedicated staffing for NREGA, detailed knowledge of the provisions of the Act amongst the rural people and monitoring of works taken up in remote areas having poor connectivity.

(c): Awareness generation about NREGA amongst rural masses is a continuous process and is being done through intensive IEC activities such as one day orientation of all Sarpanches at the Block level; convening regular Gram Sabhas; use of local vernacular newspaper, radio jingles, TV spots, films and local cultural forms; leaflets, brochures in simple local language and involvement of NGOs/Self Help Groups. So far 2.24 lakh Gram Rozgar Sewaks (GRS), 5277 Programme Officers, 22588 technical staff and 11722 non-technical staff have been appointed. 1.87 lakh GRS, 30937 technical and non-technical staff, 6.81 lakh PRI functionaries and 5.51 lakh members of Vigilance and Monitoring Committees have been trained. In order to ensure transparency and timely payment of wages under NREGA, States have been asked to disburse wages to NREGA workers through their accounts in Post Offices/Banks. So far, 4.22 crore accounts have been opened.